

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1-10 are amended, and claims 11-15 are added. Thus, claims 1-15 are active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

The specification and abstract have been carefully reviewed and revised to correct grammatical and idiomatic errors in order to aid the Examiner in further consideration of the application, and to correct the informalities of the abstract as identified by the Examiner in item 3 on page 2 of the Office Action. The amendments to the specification and abstract are incorporated in the attached substitute specification and abstract. No new matter has been added.

Also attached hereto is a marked-up version of the substitute specification and abstract illustrating the changes made to the original specification and abstract.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for kindly indicating, in item 4 on pages 3-4 of the Office Action, that claims 1-10 are allowed. Minor editorial revisions were made to claims 1-10 in order to improve their U.S. form and to provide proper antecedent basis for all of the recited limitations. The Applicants submit that the revisions made to claims 1-10 were not to broaden or narrow the scope of protection for the present invention. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-10, as amended, are in condition for allowance for the reasons identified in item 4 on pages 3-4 of the Office Action.

New claims 11-15 are similar in scope to claims 1-5, except that new claims 11-15 were drafted in order to avoid a construction under 35 U.S.C. § 112, sixth paragraph. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit new claims 11-15 are allowable for the same reasons that claims 1-5 were indicated to be allowed.

The present amendments of claims 1-10 and the addition of new claims 11-15 were not submitted earlier since the necessity of the amendments was not noticed earlier and since the Ex Parte Quayle Action was issued as the first Office Action on the merits. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request entry of the present amendments to claims 1-10 and the addition of new claims 11-15.

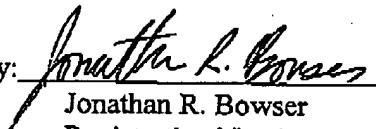
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is respectfully solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Satoshi ANDO et al.

By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jonathan R. Bowser  
Registration No. 54,574  
Attorney for Applicants

JRB/ck  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021  
Telephone (202) 721-8200  
Facsimile (202) 721-8250  
July 8, 2004